

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 16, 1993

Published Since 1877

## President Clinton meets with SBC leaders Sept. 16

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — President Clinton has agreed to meet with two Southern Baptist Convention leaders in a Sept. 16 meeting at the White House, according to Rex M. Horne Jr., pastor of Clinton's home church, Immanuel Baptist, Little Rock, Ark.

Horne, who said he has been working on "getting the leaders together" for several months, told Baptist Press that Houston pastor and SBC President Ed Young and SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman will meet with Clinton for at least one-half hour at the White House. Horne will provide the introductions, he said, but there is no set agenda or prescribed discussion.

"I just wanted to get them face-to-face," Horne said, "and, hopefully, it will be conducive for future communications."

Horne said this meeting has nothing to do with a large, interfaith gathering held at the White House Aug. 30 with President Clinton to which no SBC leader was invited.

That meeting was handled by an interfaith team and White House staff while the president was on vacation, said Horne, who was present at that meeting.

The late-afternoon Sept. 16 meeting, even though with no set agenda, could give SBC leaders an opportunity to discuss with the president some of their objections to his policies, especially regarding Clinton's policies on abortion and homosexuals in the military.

Horne said the SBC leaders have not been asked to "check their convictions at the door" and there probably would be opportunity for both parties to discuss such issues.

The Southern Baptist Convention in June passed a resolution urging Clinton to reverse his stances on abortion and homosexuality.

Chapman, a former SBC president, told Baptist Press he preferred not to comment until after the meeting; BP was unable to reach Young.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.



## Crossview, Brandon, "steps out"

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions provided a double wide trailer as a worship center for Crossview Church, Brandon (above), at its beginning. The state mission offering has provided 14 such trailers for use by new churches and missions.

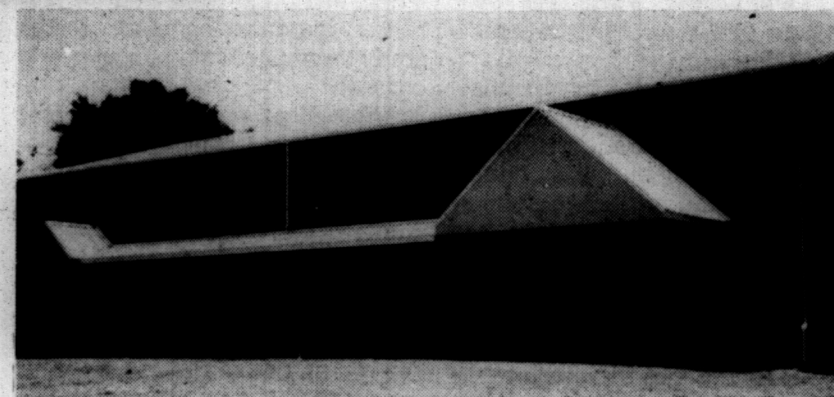
Volunteer labor from Crossview, Pelahatchie, and other churches came to help in the construction of a new building. Workers from the Carroll-Montgomery Association (left) nailed up sheet rock.

The church's new sanctuary and education building are nearly complete. The upper story of the education building, which will house 10 additional classrooms, still lacks some funds and finishing work.

The new building (below) will be dedicated on homecoming day, Sept. 19, at 1:30 p.m. That ceremony will follow regular morning worship at 11 and a dinner on the grounds at noon. For further information, call Carol Jenkins at (601) 932-2216. Don Williams is pastor.



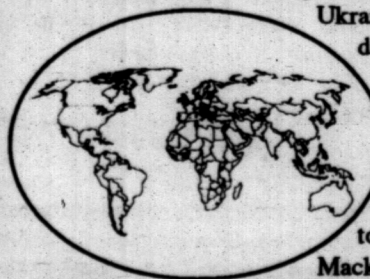
A goal of \$170,000 has been set for allocation to new missions out of the 1994 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. This money will help house new congregations in mobile chapels, provide assistance to congregations whose buildings have been lost to fire or natural disaster, or provide site purchase assistance to congregations who are having trouble financing land purchase. Overall goal for the offering is \$687,350.



 Here's Hope.  
Share Jesus Now.

### Mississippians in Ukraine

Over 7,000 professions of faith were recorded when 12 Mississippians teamed up with 40 Ukraine Baptist churches for a crusade July 28-Aug. 11 in Chernovtsy. Teams of



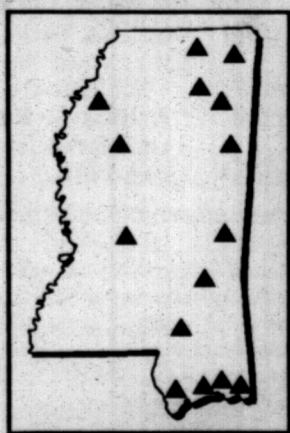
Ukrainians and Americans conducted daily visitation and nightly services during the crusade. Mississippians involved in the crusade and their churches were Bill and Mike Barton, First, Vancleave; Lynn Mackey, Wayne Assoc. director of missions; Jerry McBride, East Mt. Zion, Baldwyn; Joe and Glynis Madison, First, Pascagoula; Harry Gaston, First, Gautier; Kathleen Henderson, Kreole Ave., Moss Point; C.D. and Gail Whigham, Calvary, Pascagoula; J.D. Cutrer, First, Pascagoula; and Terry Cutrer, First, Baldwyn.

### Life Chains announced

Churches and pro-life groups in 15 locations across Mississippi will gather on Sunday, Oct. 3, for Life Chain events, a peaceful Christian witness against abortion. The theme of the campaign is "One hour of prayer to save a lifetime."

Life Chain sites include Booneville, Clarksdale, Columbus, Greenwood, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Laurel, Meridian, New Albany, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula, Picayune, Ripley, and Tupelo.

For more information on the events statewide, call organizers at (601) 425-3838, or (601) 428-1221. Both telephone numbers are in Laurel.



### Looking back...

#### 50 years ago

Margaret Lackey, physically unable to leave her home, sent Mississippi Baptists a strong message of faith and encouragement as they entered into their annual Week of Prayer for State Missions.

#### 20 years ago

SBC President Owen Cooper of Yazoo City hosted a dinner to honor L. Venchael Booth, a native Mississippian and president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, which was meeting in Jackson.

#### 10 years ago

A planned visit by Mississippi Baptist leaders with their Russian church counterparts was not affected by a Soviet fighter pilot's downing of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 a few days earlier.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Dancing with deception

Communism may have run its course. Russia (now CIS) has made dramatic changes in the last several years. North Korea is still the hermit kingdom, Albania is no more, and Cuba suffers from years of misrule. Communism is dying but the war of ideas will continue. A vacuum has been created and now what "ism" will fill it.

The race is on, and the *Imprimis* newsletter published by Hillsdale College makes several suggestions. Socialism is off and running hard with building the power of the state as a major thrust. George Roche, president of Hillsdale College, writes that "by mid 1992 federal, state, and local governments were consuming 45% of the national income." We really have more government than we can now afford. Yet the proposal to cut the size of government brings screams of anguish. Have we lost our fear of big government? Roche is quick to say that ideas, not armies, rule the world. Government cannot do anything for us without first taking from us the means to do it. Scrambling for more and more federal funds only takes away from our own freedom and resourcefulness.

Chuck Colson of Watergate fame, in his new book, *A Dance*

with Deception, declares the new "ism" in America is the intelligentsia. They trade in neither goods nor services, but in words and ideas. They are the TV news anchors, the journalists, and some educators who write school curricula. Add to this the public policy analysts and you have the "brain workers."

Colson quotes interviews and polls on TV-journalists who are self-labeled liberals: 90% are pro-choice, 75% believe homosexuality is morally acceptable, and only 8% attend religious services regularly.

Hollywood writers and prime-time entertainment producers fared even worse: 97% are pro-choice, 80% believe homosexuality is morally acceptable, and only 7% attend church regularly. Perhaps the real battle for the heart and soul of America is not at 11 a.m. Sunday, but at 5:30 p.m. each weekday. Colson is correct in observing that our reply to "You are imposing your view of morality on us" is like saying, "Don't teach the law of gravity; that's only your viewpoint."

What kind of tomorrow are we creating for our children? Have we abdicated the teaching of our children to the "brain workers" who

are leaving behind a battlefield strewn with the hearts and minds of those who once sought freedom? The shaping of tomorrow's world is taking place today. Heavy forces work against us and we can turn aside in object surrender or seek to perpetuate better ideas.

Jesus dealt with these concepts 2,000 years ago. The truth shall set you free and "my word is truth." His gospel can unshackle us from the "isms" of destruction. The apostle Paul had it right, "The truth is that, although of course we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on the spiritual level. The very weapons we use are not those of human warfare but powerful in God's warfare for the destruction of the enemy's strongholds. Our battle is to bring down every deceptive fantasy and every imposing defense that men erect against the true knowledge of God. We even fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5, Phillips).

The war for the minds will continue. The believer has a distinct advantage of truth and confidence. Our job in this war is to "keep on keeping on," doing the best job we can to instill the Word of God into the lives of our children.



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Sky Parade stirs memories

The Mississippi Sky Parade (held Labor Day weekend in Jackson) punched the "old memories" computer button for veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The balloon glow was the kickoff as dozen of the inflated pear-shaped tents with a dangling basket, lit up the night. On the last day 200 balloons, without formation, flew into the exhibit area.

I arrived just as the U.S. Army's "Golden Knights" jumped from an airplane in colorful parachutes. Aerobatics were breathtakingly performed. The smallest jet in the world did fly-bys low over the field, landed and taxied up to where I was standing. Empty, it weighs 450 pounds. I have kinsmen who could top that. The announcer said the pilot did not climb into it, but strapped it on. The pilot finally untangled himself from the miniature aircraft.

"I have lawn mowers bigger than that," I told him. He laughed but his look said, "Maybe you ought to be home using it," which squelched the humor of the moment.

The C-5 Galaxy, one of the world's largest cargo planes, was opened fore and aft. It was like walking through a hangar. Sleek jets, tankers, and bombers lined the tarmac. The Stealth Fighter, looking like a crumpled milk carton, was well guarded.

Finally, I saw the Piper Cub. It was the first plane I flew some 48

years ago. The N2S, crop-duster type, and the SNJ or AT-6 were parked nearby. While in the Navy, I was a "crewman" often in both of these. We never did with ours what the lad from Pocahontas did with his AT-6. His flying skill was magnificent. A restored B-17 was there and recalled memories of my Forest High School coach being killed in one in Australia. Also, Wayne Coleman, formerly pastor at Oxford and Terry, had flown about 50 missions over Germany as a gunner.

Little children were playing in the shadow of the plane as grizzled veterans looked for a moment, shook their heads, and walked away. Too many had "lived in fame and gone down in flame" with the B-17 as their coffin.

How did we ever manage to popularize war? Can instruments of death be so appealing? A 12-year-old kid stood on the top turret of a tank waving an empty machine gun toward the sky. War is a dumb way to settle arguments. The men who declare it and those who fight it are seldom the same.

I love my country and have high regard for those who died defending this land. May the Lord help us to wage peace with the same intensity that we use in waging war. We have a lot of swords to be beaten into pruning hooks and plowshares.

Such were the memories on Labor Day. —GH

## Ethics &amp; religion...

## No-fault reforms put teeth back in laws

By Michael McManus

## Sixth of a 7-part series

The major reason why divorces soared from 708,000 in 1970 to 1,182,000 only 10 years later was passage of so-called "no-fault" divorce laws.

Prior to no-fault, "traditional legal marriage was grounded in the Christian conception of marriage as a sacrament, a holy union between a man and a woman, a commitment to join together 'to love and cherish, in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, until death do us part,'" writes Lenora Weitzman in her landmark book, *The Divorce Revolution*.

"Divorce laws reinforced those responsibilities, rewarding spouses who fulfilled their marital obligations and punishing those who did not." If a man ran off with his secretary, his wife got the family home, child custody, child support, and alimony until she remarried or died.

No-fault's goal was to reduce the acrimony of divorce proceedings by eliminating arguments over who was most at fault. But in abolishing "the concept of fault, it also eliminated the framework of guilt, innocence and... the law's

condemnation of marital misconduct," Weitzman says.

Instead of a lifelong commitment, marriage is only a convenience that either party can unilaterally terminate without a spouse's consent.

Instead of punishing marital misconduct, no-fault rewards it — a man who runs off with a paramour now can demand sale of the family home, extract half its value, thus forcing his wife and kids to subsidize his affair.

Instead of recognizing that a woman who remains at home to care for children, gives as much to marriage as the man while losing economic value in the marketplace, and thus needs continuing support of the husband, only 15.5% get alimony under no-fault.

The U.S. as a whole will not dramatically reduce its divorce rate without restoring the moral framework of marriage by removing perverse incentive no-fault gives people to walk away from their marriage vows.

But many partial reforms deserve support by religious/family leaders.

California, the state that created

no-fault, found fault with it. In 1988, thanks to lobbying by Jewish and Catholic leaders, the state passed a law allowing judges "to temporarily defer the sale of a family home, to minimize the adverse consequences of divorce on minor children."

Illinois Rep. Bernard Pedersen has proposed a brilliant reform that would give couples applying for a marriage license, two alternatives:

A Marriage of Commitment which reinstates the traditional marriage that can not be dissolved, except by providing evidence of fault. Couples could thus add legal teeth to the vows recited in most weddings.

A Marriage of Compatibility would allow either partner to walk away with no questions asked, and a 50-50 split of assets. William Bennett, former education secretary, attended such a wedding with the vows "as long as love shall last." He said, "I sent paper plates as my wedding gift."

McManus has written his "Ethics & Religion" column, syndicated in 100 newspapers, since 1981.

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# Bernard Blackwell believed drowned in Lake Chotard

Divers on Sept. 14 searched 50-foot-deep water in Lake Chotard near Vicksburg for former Mississippi College alumni affairs director, Bernard Blackwell, believed drowned after a fishing mishap.

A witness told authorities that Blackwell, 66, of Clinton, fell over the side of his 14-foot bass boat into the lake bordered by Warren and Issaquena counties, Warren County Sheriff Paul Barrett said.

The witness, who gave his name as Bruce Thomas, told authorities it appeared Blackwell saw water coming into the boat and was about to check a drain plug, Barrett said.

After dragging a portion of the lake for four hours Sept. 13, emergency workers could not find Blackwell's body, Barrett said. Authorities also were not able to find Thomas, who had called the Sheriff's Department to report the incident at 1 p.m. but did not leave a number.

After 34 years working his way up the ladder at Mississippi College, Blackwell was scheduled to retire Oct. 30, once homecoming

festivities were complete, said college spokesman Norman Gough.

"I had just gotten a note from Coach Blackwell this morning that that was going to be his last official act at the college," Gough said.

Blackwell thought about retiring earlier, but was asked by former President Lewis Blackwell Nobles to stay and work in the development office raising money for renovation of Alumni Hall, Gough said.

"He had two major surgeries in the last months... a quadruple bypass and a prostate surgery for a malignancy," Gough said.

Sheriff Barrett asks that Bruce Thomas of Vicksburg and anyone else who might have seen Blackwell fall from his boat call the Sheriff's Department at (601) 636-1761.

— Reprinted from the Jackson CLARION-LEDGER.



## Warrington will fill FMB volunteer post

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — J. Thomas Warrington began a new job Sept. 13 at the Foreign Mission Board after three months of administrative leave to consider options at the board.

He is the new associate director for the Spanish South America, Middle America, and Canada section in the Volunteers in Missions Department. The post became vacant when veteran volunteer specialist James Cecil retired July 31.

In late June, Warrington was asked to step down from his for-

mer job as associate area director in the board's Europe area office. John Floyd, the new area director for Europe, said he was looking for someone with "a different match of gifts" who had lived in the area to fill the Europe associate role. He has since named Roger Briggs, missionary church starter in Brussels, Belgium, to the post.

Warrington, who has 13 years' experience with the board as a missionary and staff member, was asked to consider interviewing for another job at the board.

## Housing requests for SBC Orlando should be postmarked Oct. 1

NASHVILLE (BP) — Hotel reservations for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should be mailed Oct. 1, according to convention manager Jack Wilkerson.

The meeting will be June 14-16 in the Orange County Convention Center/Civic Center in Orlando, Fla.

The SBC Housing Guide and Request Form can be obtained from the offices of state Baptist convention executive directors and the September issue of the Baptist Program magazine published by the SBC Executive Committee.

The forms provide complete instructions for filing, Wilkerson said. They also list hotels in the 6,500-room Southern Baptist

block, their rates, and distances from the convention center.

Reservations must be postmarked on or after Oct. 1, 1993, and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis through the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau's computerized housing system.

Individual registrants may not submit more than one request per person. Multiple registrants may submit no more than 10 individual requests in the same envelope.

However, information about requesting group housing for 50 or more people can be obtained by writing to the SBC Housing Information Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Rankin "solidifies" FMB partnership with WMU

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — In his first visit to Woman's Missionary Union since becoming president of the Foreign Mission Board, Jerry Rankin affirmed the 105-year-old partnership between the two organizations.

"Your faithful support means so much to our foreign missions effort," Rankin told the national WMU staff and WMU leaders from the Birmingham area assembled Sept. 3 at the national

WMU building to meet him.

"After becoming president of the Foreign Mission Board, one of my top priorities was for us to get together and for us to affirm and solidify our partnership," he said.

Rankin did not bring specific ideas to the WMU staff of ways the partnership could be strengthened, but rather asked for their suggestions and input. Rankin, accompanied by his wife, Bobbie, received an orien-

tation to the work being done by WMU.

Rankin told the WMU staff he strongly believes there is still work for Southern Baptists to do in missions. God isn't obligated to use Southern Baptists in reaching the world for Christ, he said. But he is calling out the personnel and tapping the resources among Southern Baptists to fulfill his purpose, he said.

"We must not be diverted from God's purpose," he said.

## Boris Yeltsin plans to reject Russia's revised religion law

By Marty Croll

MOSCOW (BP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans a second veto of laws Parliament has passed limiting religious freedom, presidential advisers said Sept. 6.

The advisers decided Yeltsin legally deserves another crack at the restrictions to suggest changes or declare his outright rejection.

Lawmakers chose not to adopt amendments Yeltsin suggested to a first draft law Aug. 4. Instead, they wrote a new law — passed two weeks later — which they say is sensitive to his objections.

Yeltsin's promised delay of the revised law offers renewed hope to evangelicals and foreign missionaries in Russia. They stand to lose the most from the new restrictions, which bolster the strength of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Enactment of the law over Yeltsin's objections could take weeks, moving Russia that much closer to a possible new constitution. The constitution now being drafted is expected to guarantee free practice of religion, change the lawmaking process, or even call for new elections.

Yeltsin is expected to take until Sept. 20 — the full two weeks allotted to him — before acting on the revised religion law. For now, advisers said, he is embroiled in his latest fight with Parliament: the ouster of a former ally, Vice President Alexander Rutskoi. Rutskoi has become a cornerstone in a blockade against political reforms, including the new constitution.

Rutskoi and First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko, a Yeltsin ally, have been dismissed by Yeltsin pending an investigation into corruption charges.

Support for the new religion law in Parliament has been led by an Orthodox priest, Vyacheslav Polosin. Polosin has extended his campaign outside of Moscow's White House, where Parliament meets, and into the mass media, angrily attacking Westerners' efforts to evangelize Russia.

But his distrust finds company throughout high-level Orthodox ranks and even into the government's executive branch. Unaccustomed to extreme views bred in an arena of free thought, many Russians have fought back against what they view as an invasion of foreigners preaching a wide variety of doctrines.

The president, engaged in a bitter, multifaceted contest against anti-reform lawmakers, rejected a first draft law July 14. He accused lawmakers of ignoring accepted international norms of freedom and cited specific areas of the law he said needed rewriting.

The revised version Parliament passed would give sweeping powers to the Justice Department,

police and courts to shut down Russian religious groups and monitor missionaries. It also provides government support to the Russian Orthodox Church.

A spokesman for Yeltsin told lawmakers the president would prefer that religious freedom be addressed in the context of other laws. But Parliament chided Yeltsin for not specifically wording proposed amendments — which, insiders say, lawmakers would have rejected flatly anyway.

Evangelical leaders in Russia wrote Yeltsin Aug. 30 protesting the revised law. They decried police involvement in religion and accused Parliament of distorting Yeltsin's arguments against the first draft law. Parliament's new draft, they charged, is vague, blatantly violates the Russian constitution and contradicts itself.

Denominations represented in the letter included Baptists, Pentecostals, and Seventh-day Adventists.

Croll writes for FMB.

## Mississippi CP gifts down over six percent for 1993

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,556,997 through the Cooperative Program in August according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which forwards church gifts to their designated recipients.

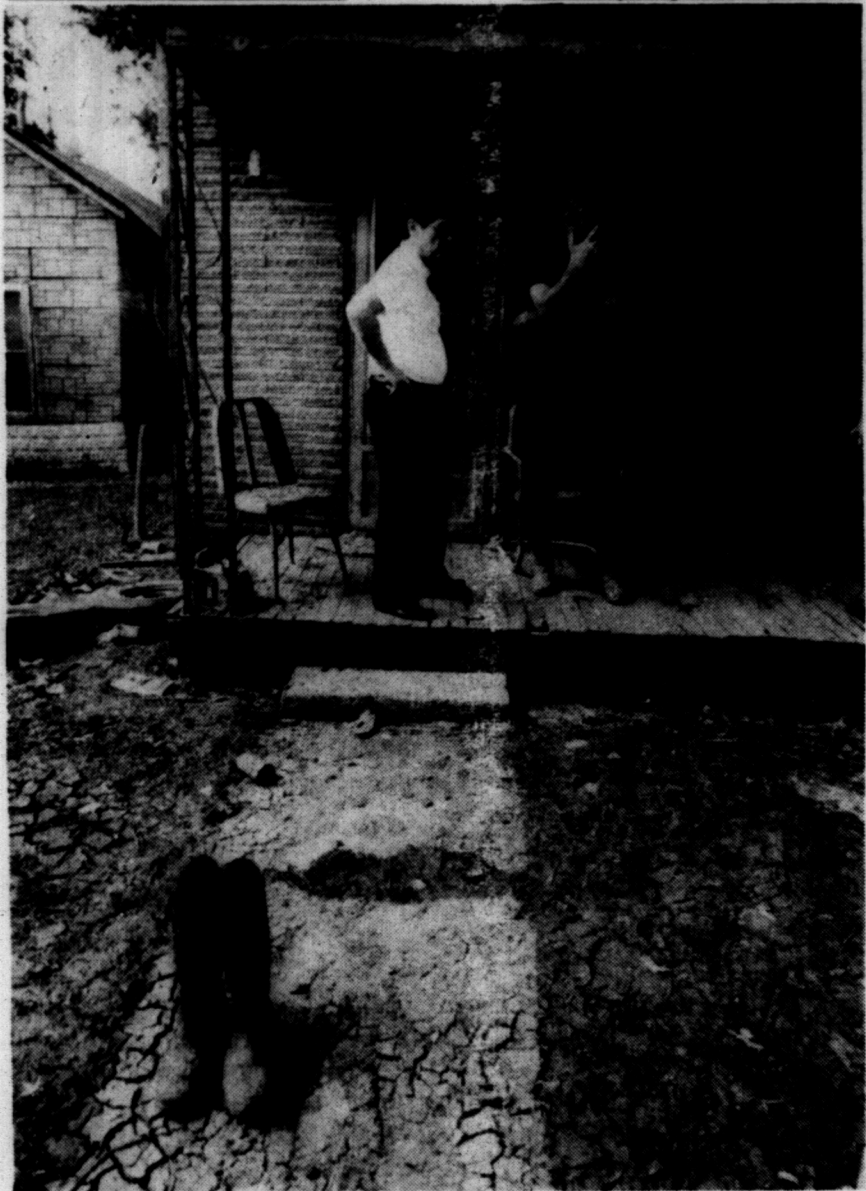
The total 1993 giving is \$14,048,914 which is \$13,337 (or .10%) more than that given in the same period of 1992. August 1993

giving is \$177,099 more than August giving of 1992.

However, giving for the first eight months of 1993 is \$919,086 (or 6.14%) under the pro rata amount needed to reach this year's budget of \$22,452,000.

The pro rata amount is figured by taking the total budget, dividing by 12, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.





## Front porch visit

Ray Newland, right, tells Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis about flood waters reaching the ceiling in his Hannibal, Mo., home, where he has lived for 32 years. Volunteer rebuilding efforts provide a "tremendous opportunity" for Southern Baptists to bear a Christian witness and meet physical needs, Lewis said. The Home Mission Board has established an office and a toll-free line to coordinate disaster assistance in the flooded Midwest, as well as Florida and Hawaii which were hit by hurricanes last year. The toll-free number is 1-800-4SBC-AID, and the office is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time. (Photo by Paul Obregon)

## Tippah team to aid flood victims

Bill McCreary, director of missions, Tippah Association, will lead a team of volunteers to the Midwest flood zone in September or October. The group will be involved in clean-up work. If you can volunteer, call McCreary at (601) 837-3284.

## Kentuckian to lead BookLink ministry

MEMPHIS (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators' BookLink ministry, which provides Christian reference and study books for Southern Baptist missionaries and national pastors, has a new executive secretary.

Olin D. Williams, 63, of Eubank, Ky., will serve as the volunteer director for BookLink, succeeding B. Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, who was instrumental in the ministry's founding in 1988.

Williams was a public school teacher in Germantown and Miamisburg, Ohio, for 29 years and has served Southern Baptist churches and associations as a deacon and Sunday School director in Kentucky and Ohio. As a lay evangelist, he has preached in 76 churches in 11 states, as well as overseas, since 1985. He now

serves as moderator of the Lincoln County Association in Stanford, Ky.

BookLink receives ongoing requests from missionaries overseas. Needed most are English-language study tools, including concordances, commentaries, Bible handbooks, and Bible dictionaries.

Since its inception, BookLink has shipped more than 75,000 books, tapes, tracts, and other items to 57 countries and five states. Donors of materials may reach BookLink at 1-800-467-2413.

The educators' fellowship is one of 14 under the umbrella of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions, based at the Brotherhood Commission, Memphis.

# Trustees of Florida newspaper vote not to retire editor Brymer

By Barbara Denman

ORLANDO, Fla. (ABP) — Trustees of the Florida Baptist Witness wrestled with the issues of "negative" news coverage and eroding subscriptions, but nonetheless voted to reaffirm the newsmagazine's editor and not restrict his editorial freedom.

In an Aug. 26-27 meeting in Orlando, longtime commissioner J.C. Mitchell of Orlando made the motion to "reassert our confidence (in) and commend the growth of Jack Brymer," editor of the Witness since 1984.

Mitchell added the Witness commissioners would "not set any parameters for his work as editor," turning aside suggestions from some commissioners that they instruct Brymer to align the paper with the conservative element in the state convention.

"I don't think that it should be our jurisdiction to limit the freedom of an individual anymore than I would want someone to tell me what I can and cannot do," said Mitchell, a former pastor and

state convention president. "We've been through this enough. He does know, I'm sure, where we each stand."

Brymer's editorial freedom and the role of the state Baptist newspaper have been frequent topics for the nine-member board for several years. At their most recent meeting, several commissioners complained about the Witness' printing of stories about the SBC controversy and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, as well as articles originated by Associated Baptist Press, an independent news service.

But their criticisms were matched against a new reader opinion survey that demonstrated a high approval rating of the weekly newsmagazine and its editor. The telephone survey, done at the commissioners' request by an independent research firm, surveyed laypersons and pastors who subscribe to the Witness.

The research revealed that 72% of the laity and 66% of the pastors

consider the reporting by the Witness to be fair; 71% of both categories assess the publication as accurate; and 65% of the two categories consider the Witness balanced.

Eighty-five percent of both groups answered "yes" when asked if the Witness should publish reports which deal with all sides of Southern Baptist issues. And when asked if the Witness should publish news stories from Associated Baptist Press, 70% of the lay subscribers and 85% of the pastors said "yes."

Pastors were evenly divided over the issue of publishing reports of the newly organized Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a group of Southern Baptists displeased with the current Southern Baptist leadership — 47% said "yes," while 42% said "no."

A significantly high percentage of lay subscribers — 28% — answered "don't know."

Denman is director of public relations, Florida Convention.

## Homosexuality resolution shines spotlight on Cobb County, Georgia

MARIETTA, Ga. (BP) — Cobb County Baptists and other Christians in that suburban Atlanta county have found themselves in the national spotlight over the past few weeks regarding the county's recently enacted stance against homosexual activity.

On Aug. 10, Cobb County Commissioners approved a resolution pledging not to fund activities "which seek to contravene these existing community standards," standards which the resolution found included "the traditional family structure" and did not include homosexual lifestyles.

The move is considered the first time nationwide a county has acted to officially condemn the homosexual lifestyle.

Two weeks later, the commission voted to cut off all county arts subsidies after an earlier attempt to restrict those grants to arts groups supportive of "community standards" was met by charges of censorship.

Nelson Price, pastor of the 9,500-member Roswell Street Church, said he has been a longtime friend of Gordon Wysong, the commissioner who sponsored both actions.

"I worked with him privately long before this went public," Price said, adding his involvement also included drafting letters seeking support for the measures from 280 priests, rabbis, and ministers.

The intent of the resolution, he said, was the same as other efforts in recent years by governments aimed at heading off efforts to extend special rights and privileges to the homosexual community. The recent move by the Atlanta City Council to extend insurance

benefits to unmarried partners was a contributing factor, he said.

"Communities all over the nation have had to act remedially, and it was thought to be to our advantage to act preventively," Price said. "What we've tried to do... is to keep this from appearing to be a religious issue. It is, but it is more than a religious issue."

Price noted the findings of British sociologist J.D. Unwin, whose research included 88 civilizations. "The evidence is clear that a human society is free to choose between great energy and sexual permissiveness, but they are not free to do it more than one generation," he said, noting such civilizations historically have fallen when such permissiveness gets out of control.

Steve Kimmel, pastor of First Church of Smyrna, Ga., also supported the actions.

"When you consider the politi-

cal arena has been the main point for advancing the homosexual agenda in this country, and the way they've hammered at the rest of the population, I think it's appropriate for the commission to draw a line in the sand and say we are not going to accommodate the forward progress of the homosexual agenda," he said.

Kimmel said the stand has been categorized "as being hate politics and bigotry." But for most Christians, he said, the issue is not one of condemning homosexuals, but of condemning a sinful activity.

Kimmel stressed "the imperative of approaching this sort of an issue with compassion and caring. Generally speaking, the media zeroes in on the radical element in the Christian community, that fringe of the Christian culture that is composed of bigotry and hatred. And that is opposed to the will of God."

## "Women of Excellence" nominations sought

NASHVILLE (BP)—Nominations are being received for the second annual "Christian Women of Excellence" recognition sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Woman's Missionary Union.

The honorees will be presented during "Panorama: National Christian Women's Enrichment Conference" in Atlanta, March 24-26, 1994.

Women nominated should exemplify biblical values of Christian women and be considered role models for Christian women of the '90s.

Four women will be chosen from these categories: two laypersons, one minister's wife, and one woman in vocational ministry.

Recommendations must be submitted on a form which can be obtained by writing or calling Christian Women of Excellence, 127 Ninth Avenue North, MSN 171, Nashville, TN 37234, (615) 251-2277.

The first recognitions were presented at the first national Christian women's enrichment conference in San Antonio, Texas, earlier this year.



## Margaret Lackey Offering . . .

# Baptist women anxious to get feet wet on next call for disaster relief

By William H. Perkins Jr.

They're trained, equipped, and ready. All they need now is a disaster.

Actually, they aren't wishing for disaster to befall anyone, but members of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) disaster relief team are ready to hit the road whenever the call does come — and they know it will.

"This is the dream of many women across the state, who want to go in the first wave of disaster relief volunteers but have not been able to do so because there were no sleeping and support facilities for women," said Marjean Patterson, WMU Department director of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

All that changed earlier this year with WMU's acquisition of

a new, 32-foot Itasca motor coach, fully self-contained and optimized for the demands of long-term disaster relief. The unit can accommodate up to 10 workers and includes a trailer that can be towed behind the motor coach to hold luggage, support equipment, and supplies.

Patterson said the women's unit will work in tandem with the Mississippi Brotherhood Department, which has been charged by MBCB with lead responsibility for disaster relief. Women workers have been trained by Brotherhood personnel and are on call for the next disaster, she added.

"We've been on standby twice — during the Midwest flooding and Hurricane Emily," Patterson said. Women volunteers are need-

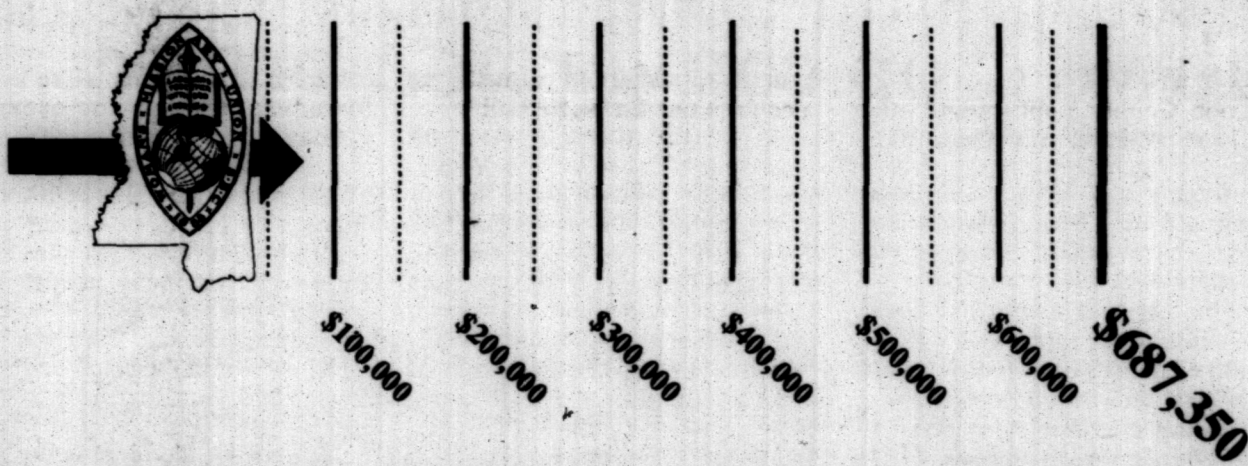
ed in all areas, including, but not limited to, nursing, child care, counseling, clothing distribution, and food service, she pointed out.

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions plays a significant funding role in such state-sponsored Baptist projects, which are used by Mississippians as a Christian witness not only in their own state but in many distant places where people are most in need.

For information on the Margaret Lackey Offering and the women's disaster relief unit, contact WMU. For information on Baptist disaster relief in general, contact Brotherhood. Both departments can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

## Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

Goal : \$687,350  
Current : \$ 74,252



## Patterson says churches, world "standing in the need of prayer"

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Speaking about "one of the shortest but most meaningful prayers ever offered," Paige Patterson delivered the 76th annual convocation address at New Orleans Seminary.

Referring to Peter's prayer in Matthew 14, "Lord, save me," Patterson said, "If our churches are to be revitalized, if our own personal ministries are ever to attain the standards that God has for them, we must learn how to walk with God in prayer."

President of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., since July 1992, Patterson previously was president of Criswell College in Dallas from 1975-92 and an associate pastor at Dallas' First Church. His wife, Dorothy, is the sister of NOBTS professor Chuck Kelley, director of the seminary's Center for Evangelism and Church Growth. The Pattersons are both graduates of New

Orleans Seminary, he in 1968 with a master of theology degree and in 1973 with a doctor of theology degree, and she in 1968 with a master of theology degree.

"The healing of our land, the healing of our world, the healing of our convention, the healing of our churches, and our own healing is dependent upon the intervention of God, which comes only as a result of prayer," Patterson said.

New Orleans Seminary's 76th annual convocation service, traditionally held on the first Thursday in September, began with nine new faculty members signing both the seminary's "Articles of Religious Belief" and the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The seminary's 10 articles were written by the school's first president, Byron Hoover DeMent, and others in 1918, and currently have been signed by 195 men and

women approved by seminary trustees to serve on the NOBTS faculty.

New Orleans Seminary was the first of the six Southern Baptist seminaries also to have faculty sign their names to the 17-point Baptist Faith and Message. NOBTS trustees voted on March 7, 1979, before it was an issue within the convention, to have new faculty members subscribe to both documents. The Baptist Faith and Message originally was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1925, then clarified in 1963.

Landrum P. Leavell II, NOBTS president, pledged his loyalty to faculty members and assured them that within the parameters of both the "Articles of Religious Belief" and The Baptist Faith and Message they could express their convictions and teach their classes with full support from the administration.

Thursday, September 16, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Mississippi WMU workers, ready to roll in the women's unit when disaster strikes, include (from left) Marjean Patterson, WMU Department director of MBCB; Joan Tyler, state WMU immediate past president; and WMU department staffers Kay Cassibry, Helen Price, Jan Cossitt, Pam Price, Cindy Coon, and Ashley McCaleb. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Moderates plan meeting to "preserve" states

NASHVILLE (ABP) — A small group of Baptist moderates from approximately 18 states will meet in Nashville in late September to try to figure out how to stem the growing influence of fundamental-conservatives in state-level Baptist affairs.

John Baugh of Houston, organizer of the two-day meeting, said the purpose is "to preserve Southern Baptists' historic work and witness."

But he acknowledged the meeting is in response to evidence fundamental-conservatives in several states are gearing up to expand their influence into state conventions, many of which have been void of the politicking that has characterized the national convention for more than a decade.

"Many Southern Baptists would be distressed to see their state conventions controlled by fundamentalists using the same methods used to control the

Southern Baptist Convention," said Baugh, a retired wholesale grocery executive and longtime moderate activist.

Several meetings of state-level conservative strategists have been held in the past year. Two such national meetings — in August 1992 and February of this year — were organized by T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's powerful Executive Committee.

Pinckney's meeting last February, also in Nashville, came on the heels of the winter session of the Executive Committee and was attended by several committee members.

Likewise, Baugh's meeting will follow by a day the fall meeting of the Executive Committee. However, it is not likely to include members of the committee, which is controlled by fundamental-conservatives.

## Thomas resigns BJC post, will return to Tennessee

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Oliver Thomas, general counsel and associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee, has resigned to move to his native state of Tennessee.

His wife, Lisa, has accepted a teaching position in the public school system outside Maryville, and Thomas plans "to preach,

teach, practice law, and write country music — not necessarily in that order," he said in his letter of resignation.

Thomas, who has distinguished himself on Capitol Hill as a leading church-state authority, also plans to remain active in that field. His resignation will be effective Oct. 31.

### Prayer alert —

## Alaska pastor's wife critical

Jane Madsen, wife of Alaska pastor Glen Madsen, is in critical condition in Providence Hospital, Anchorage, after suffering a heart attack Sept. 5. The Madsens were in Anchorage visiting family when she had the attack. He is pastor of First Church, Valdez.

Many-area volunteers from Madsen's congregation are in a building project at the Valdez church this summer. The offer was part of the Madsen family's ministry.

Anyone wishing to contact the Madsens may do so through their daughter, Glen Madsen at (907) 528-1500.



# Partnership bears fruit for summer missionaries

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Everywhere they went in Zimbabwe, they found their path had been made straight by Mississippi Baptists.

The four young men, all Mississippians serving as summer missionaries in the African country, were overwhelmed with the good will and receptiveness to the gospel among the people of that African nation. Nearly 400 professions of faith were recorded during their stay.

They credited the good work done under the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project as the driving force behind their success in sharing the plan of salvation with residents of a country heavily influenced by Muslim and pagan religions.

The four were Nathan Carroll of Carriere, member of West Union Church and student at the University of Southern Mississippi; Chris Brown of Clinton, member of Morrison Heights Church and student at Mississippi College; Bobby Daniel of Hattiesburg, member of Main Street Church and student at William Carey College; and Albert Moore

of Houlika, member of Center Hill Church and student at the University of Mississippi.

"There is a lot of ancestor worship in Zimbabwe, but there is also much Christianity. They were very receptive to our message because they recognized the work that had been done there by Baptists," Carroll said.

During a recent drought, he pointed out, Baptists fed over 27,000 people and saved many lives.

"There is visible, tangible evidence of Baptists' good work," he said.

Brown agreed that the partnership is yielding positive results that are making Zimbabweans receptive to the gospel message.

"They are doing the best work; it made witnessing easier," he said.

Moore, the sole African-American on the team, said he was mistaken many times for a Zimbabwean who had gone abroad for education and returned with perfect English. That misimpression was often used as an opening for his mes-

sage, however.

"I explained that I was born in the United States and was an American citizen, and my witnessing was very well received," he said.

Daniel was moved by provisions God made for their long days and nights spent in his service.

"God is faithful — not only for the big things. He provided rest for us when we really needed it and fed us on his Word. It is amazing how God works," he said.

Moore also brought back important spiritual lessons from the summer.

"There is so much we take for granted in this country. God has shown me the difference between things needed and things wanted. I can make it now on the things I need," he said.

All four agree that the need for discipleship is great, both in places like Zimbabwe and here at home. With that in mind, it's a safe assumption that while their long, hot summer in the middle of the African continent may be



Zimbabwe summer missionaries were (top, from left) Nathan Carroll of Carriere, Chris Brown of Clinton, (below, from left) Bobby Daniel of Hattiesburg, and Albert Moore of Houlika. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

over, their Christian witness has only begun.

For more information on the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project or similar projects in Alaska and Honduras, contact the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Con-

vention Board (MBCB). For more information on summer missions, contact the Student Work Department of the MBCB.

Both departments can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

## Agriculture specialist, family find place of service with posting to Zimbabwe crop conversion project

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Michael Loftice was seeking God's will, and Bill Hardy was seeking God's servant. That they found each other was the answer to both their prayers.

Loftice, a 35-year-old Texan who taught vocational agriculture for 10 years, felt the call to give up his teaching career and enroll at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. His wife, Susan, an east

Tennessee native, also felt the call and continued to teach school while Michael studied theology and served as a bivocational pastor.

Hardy is partnership missions coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Early on in the planning for the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership, there was the dream of assisting the farmers there with improved agricultural methods and providing a positive witness for Christ," he recalled.

Through the efforts of the late Farno Green of Ruth and the Mississippi Agricultural Missions Foundation (MAMF), a plan was put into action, Hardy said. Green spent a great deal of his time and personal resources to contact people, develop ideas, and prepare a booklet to promote his dream.

Green worked with an old friend from Texas A&M University, Fred Miller, to design an easy-to-read booklet on how to raise sorghum in an area like Zimbabwe.

Green and Miller felt that sorghum held huge potential for the African nation, because the crop is less water-intensive — perfect for an area often plagued by drought — and has a higher protein content than the white corn predominant in Zimbabwe.

The project picked up speed as important components fell into place. MAMF and MBCB made funds available to purchase seed and fertilizer for Zimbabwean farmers who agreed to make the switch to sorghum. Michael, who years earlier had been a student at A&M, heard about the project and contacted Hardy in July of 1992.

Through a joint sponsorship pact between the partnership and the SBC Foreign Mission Board, the Loftice family received a two-year appointment to live in Zimbabwe and manage the sorghum conversion program. A government work permit was approved in May of this year, and they arrived on the field less than a month later.

They couldn't be more delighted to find God's place of service. In a July letter to Hardy, Michael was focused and enthusiastic.

"I have been encouraged by the farmers I have talked to and the farm plots I have seen. Some of the farmers seem reluctant to try new methods, but others seem very eager to participate in the sorghum project," he wrote.

Michael also described the nightly revival services he conducts, where 60 students at one

school made professions of faith.

"Although there is resistance to the gospel by some, many are very open to it," he wrote.

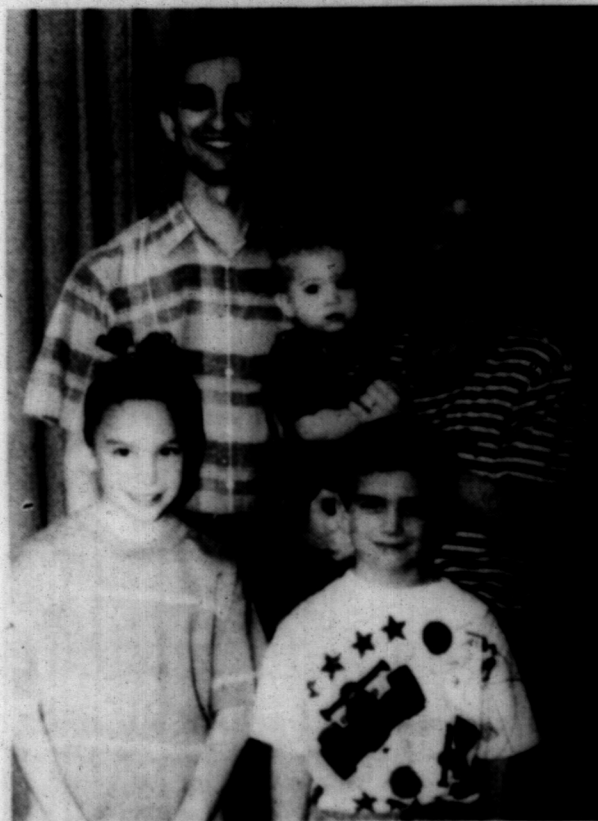
Hardy said Michael's preaching talents have freed a Southern Baptist career missionary to start new work in other places but has meant long, demanding days for Michael and his family.

"Please continue to pray for them," Hardy said — a sentiment

echoed by Michael in his July letter.

"We covet your prayers on our behalf," he wrote.

For information on the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project or similar projects in Alaska and Honduras, contact the Partnership Missions Office, MBCB, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.



Newest members of the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project team are the Loftice family: (clockwise, from top) Michael, Susan, Brian Mark, Paul Otto, and Ellen Marie.

### Mississippi's Partnership Missions Help still needed in Alaska

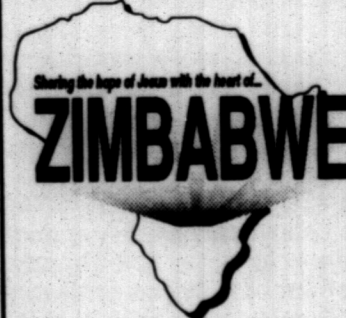
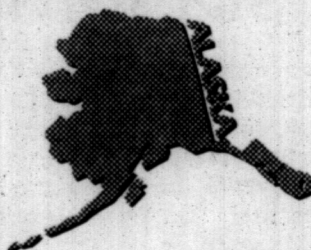
The following Alaska work projects are still in need of volunteers:

— Carpet layer, at First Church, Valdez, to complete the education building.

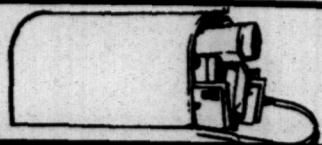
— Work teams, any size and skill level, at Rabbitt Creek Church, to complete the facility. The building is enclosed, so teams could be used as late as October.

— Finishing work, carpentry, door and window trimming, sheet rock work, electrical work, pew installation, and some plumbing needed at College Heights Church, Soldotna.

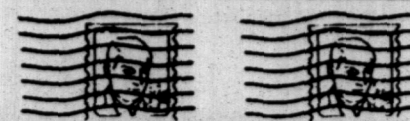
For more information, contact Bill Hardy, Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; telephone (601) 968-3800.







# Letters to the editor



## Regarding Davis

Editor:

Mississippi and the Southern Baptist Convention lost a staunch man of God a few days ago and I was disappointed in the small item you carried in your last edition concerning this man and his ministry.

The man of God I refer to is J.R. Davis, who died recently in Meridian, where he had moved after his retirement. During the years of his ministry, Davis pastored a number of churches in Mississippi and two in the city of Roanoke, Va. He preached revivals in numerous others, small country churches, small town churches, even a few large city churches, and I am confident already has and will in the future meet people in heaven who were saved as a result of his preaching.

This preacher/pastor was an orator of the "old school" philosophy — one who loved the Lord and followed his call upon his life not for personal gain or glory, but for the sole purpose of serving the Lord who saved him. He served Mississippi Baptists well as he worked on numerous boards and for Clarke College's continued support. He served, as your article stated, as president of Mississippi Baptist Convention. His messages from the pulpit, if compiled in book form, would make a volume of spiritual inspiration and insight clothed in the magnificent language of the orators of old. He had a tremendous command of the English language and a brilliant mind. Those qualities, coupled with a love and understanding of God's Word, produced masterpieces in doctrinal, evangelistic, prophetic, and consolatory sermons.

He was loved by many wherever he served our Lord and those who knew and worked with him will long remember his influence on our lives.

Mrs. Leslie Scallorn  
Batesville

## Broken promises

Editor:

This letter is concerning an article published in *The Baptist Record* issue of Aug. 26, "Promise or threat?" which was reprinted from the Aug. 5 issue, *Missouri's Word and Way*.

It said "they believed in missions and trusted the denomination to do it." Yes, I trusted (and others trusted) the denomination to keep its promise to pay Ruschlikon Seminary the money promised by the Foreign Mission Board trustees to the seminary. Because that promise was broken is why I have stopped giving to the Cooperative Program.

I give to my local church each month a check designated for local expense and local missions. I give through my church checks designated for State Missions, Home Missions, and Lottie Moon. A check is mailed each month to CBF for Vision 2000 plan.

Could it be that some SBC leaders have resigned and joined CBF due to broken trust by the denomination?

In my opinion, the decrease in the giving to the Cooperative Program is due partly to mistrust by the givers.

Julia F. Street  
Ripley

## Elect more laypeople

Editor:

Several months ago I wrote a

"sound off" letter to *The Baptist Record*, in which I attempted to chide our people into letting up on our differences on denominational polity and secular politics. It appears to have had a positive effect, in that I have had replies from both sides of the controversy. Every contact was courteous, and somewhat diverse, but all opinions were within the guidelines of "The Baptist Faith and Message." Both views, in my humble opinion need some adjustment, but since they came from brothers in Christ, I can accept them. In one case I feel some doctrinal adjustment is desirable and in another a serious adjustment in methods, though I agree with their stated doctrine.

Some of our leaders have parked in their gift, per Corinthians 12, and have set themselves up as the modern Hedgegrowers for the "Baptist Faith and Message," while our laity embraces the diversity and love context of this chapter. They love us in spite of our failures, and respect our personal convictions, but love takes precedence in their convictions. While some of our leaders have chosen sides, many more are skeptical of doing so, for fear of being branded as a troublemaker, and our denomination flounders. A neighboring state may have found the solution to agendas, officer slates, and denominational operations being controlled from small groups of un-elected, self-appointed leaders. The vast majority of their delegates were laypeople, and when presented with pre-selected candidates they did what Baptists do best. They rebelled and elected officers nominated from the floor.

Layperson, if you are tired of the squabble please be a messenger to our next state convention. Better yet, pastors, if you are concerned that expressing your views may cause problems, get your laypeople to attend as messengers, and you can smile as they vote their convictions. When they outnumber our clergy at a convention, rise up and let the consensus be heard, then we can truthfully say our people have spoken to the Holy Spirit led Baptist congregational polity.

Donald R. Windham, pastor  
West Poplarville Church  
Poplarville

## Wrong priorities?

Editor:

I read with interest the letter in your Aug. 26 issue from Robert Allen. He stated that he had a Bible study in his home on Monday nights. Apparently this was to

be a two-hour study, among other things. A mother was upset because the meeting was held past the designated time, and the following day was a school day. She said that her child would not be back.

Allen seems to blame the mother in this case. He goes into a spiel as to how much time the children spend in school. He compares what the children learn in school with what they learn in his Bible study in only two hours on Monday night. He claims that some priorities are out of focus.

I feel that the letter writer is at fault in this case. Jesus is more important than school and is also more important than his Bible study. This is not the issue. He held the class longer than it was originally set up to be. It was on a school night; children need their sleep. The Bible says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:33, 40).

I urge the writer to stick with the time allotted for the Monday evening session to keep down more confusion and the loss of those with whom he would teach. After all a Christian is a steward of his time.

James K. Burke  
Tylertown

## Our right to know

Editor:

With a great deal of soul-searching I noted that *The Baptist Record* and everyone else except members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the trustees of Mississippi College were excluded from a meeting of the Convention Board.

I have no ill feelings against those who made the decision. Rather I feel a great pall of sadness in that I spent a lifetime as a Southern Baptist journalist, 16 years in Mississippi, in an effort to establish the fact that we all have a responsibility to the work and a right to know about the work in order to help us carry out our responsibility. Without question, I failed.

I was present in Nashville when the SBC Executive Committee made the decision behind closed doors, kept closed by armed guards, to take over the operation of Baptist Press, a news service that had been established by the Southern Baptist state paper editors as a source of objective news. Early in my days as editor

of *The Baptist Record* I asked Lewis Nobles for the freedom to send a representative of *The Baptist Record* to Mississippi College trustee meetings and was denied. Later a *Baptist Record* representative was asked to leave the Mississippi College campus because the college didn't want a story told.

I bear no ill will toward Nobles over this. Rather I feel that I failed.

And I am sad, terribly sad, that the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting was closed. A principle to which I devoted 34 years was violated.

It is a Baptist principle.

We must have a publication to serve as the eyes and ears of Mississippi Baptists; and that, indeed, is an awesome responsibility.

*The Baptist Record* should be separated from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and be responsible only to all Mississippi Baptists through their conventions. And doors to work being done by Mississippi Baptists should never be closed to their eyes and ears.

Don McGregor  
Brandon

## Thanks from Illinois

Editor:

Illinois Baptists are grateful to Mississippi Baptists for our partnership and for the results of our many mutual prayers and projects. Your executive director, Bill Causey, the Mississippi staff, and many Mississippi Baptists have become our personal friends.

Your recent concern for the victims of the flood of '93 which caused you to spend \$8,400 to help flood victims in Illinois is deeply appreciated. It is always good to have friends, but in times of critical need, friends are valued even more.

We want you to continue to pray for us as we seek to provide help and nurture to churches and people who have been damaged by the flood.

Maurice L. Swinford  
Executive Director  
Illinois State Association  
Springfield, Ill.

## Arkansas is grateful

Editor:

The Golden Triangle Association just recently sent a team of Missionary Builders to our church to help us construct a worship center. They came under the direction of Leroy Atkins.

I want to thank the churches of that association that were involved in sending these missionaries to us. They worked some long, hard hours to help us accomplish the building of our new worship center. I would like to take this space to thank Jimmy Walker, David and Helen Forrester, Roland and June Lyon, Keith Middleton, Jimmy and Mildred Pruitt, Harvey Bock, Mike Walker, Leroy Atkins, and Bill and Evie Ulmer.

Lloyd Blanton, pastor  
Sugarloaf Church  
Heber Springs, Ark.

## First Baptist Church New Albany

### 150th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend

Saturday, Oct. 2, & Sunday, Oct. 3

#### Saturday schedule:

4 to 6 p.m. Barbecue dinner, Family Life Center  
7 p.m. 150th Anniversary Historical Pageant

#### Sunday schedule:

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Rev. J.P. Kirkland Jr., speaker  
Recognition of former pastors and ministers ordained by the church  
4 p.m. Community performance of  
150th Anniversary Historical Pageant

All members and former members are  
invited to attend these  
Homecoming Weekend activities.

## 15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger  
church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY  
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We rent vans by the day, week or month.

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Doug Duncan (left), Peggy Taylor (center), and Mary Johnston were recently given the responsibility of training child care workers at the Baptist Children's Village. All three have held other positions at the Village.

## Baptist Children's Village promotes three staffers, adds chaplain, two others

The Baptist Children's Village recently announced the promotion of three staff members and the addition of three others at its India Nunnery Campus in Clinton. Those promoted are Peggy Taylor, Mary Johnston, and Doug Duncan. New staff include Elke Cox, Carolyn McIlwain, and Charles "Chip" Price.

Taylor, who has served in various positions with the Village since 1963, has been named campus life coordinator. She is responsible for teaching and training the Village's child care staff.

Both Johnston and Duncan will assist Taylor as unit directors. Johnston previously served on the staff as a social worker. She holds degrees from Mississippi College

and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Duncan has worked as director of recreation for the Village. He is a graduate of William Carey College.

Cox and McIlwain have joined the staff as social workers. Cox holds bachelor and master degrees from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. McIlwain is a graduate of MC, New Orleans Seminary, and the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a master of social work degree.

Price will serve on the Village staff as chaplain. Also a graduate of MC, he earned the master of divinity in psychology and counseling from New Orleans Seminary.

## Revival Dates

**Freney Church, Carthage:** Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 nightly; Bruce Gill, Natalbany, La., evangelist; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, Hammond, La., music; Mike Routon, pastor.

**Bigbee (Monroe):** Sept. 20-22; 7 p.m.; Tommy Whaley, pastor, evangelist; special music each night.

**New Palestine, Picayune:** Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Sellers, Collinsville, evangelist; Tom Strebeck, Lumberton, music; Grover C. Glenn III, pastor.

**Van Winkle, Jackson:** Sept. 19-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Randy Bostick, pastor, Oakland, Corinth, evangelist; John and Beth Greene, Atlanta, Ga., (native Mississippians), music; Mike J. Burczynski, pastor.

**First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg:** Sept. 19-22; Sun-

day, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowl-in, Brandon, evangelist; Gordon Alford, Vancleave, music; Brian Ivey, pastor.

**First Church, Poplarville:** Sept. 19-22; Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. breakfast and 7 p.m.; Raymon Leake, Picayune, evangelist; Butch Reviere, Bogalusa, La., music; Bob Rogers, pastor.

## Missionary News

Retired missionaries Charles and Elizabeth Ray have returned from Xuzhou, China, after two years of volunteer work. The Rays were first appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1971 and served in Thailand and Japan until 1991. Their address is: Box 332, Purvis, MS 39475.

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center offers a variety of support groups and information services. Among those available are: the Breast Cancer Support Group, meeting Sept. 20, 6 p.m., in the Hederman Room (call 968-3090 for more information); and the Asthma Support Group for adults and children, meeting Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. (call 353-6262 for more information). Both groups meet the third Monday of each month.

**Trinity Church, Fulton,** will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sept. 19, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The guest speakers will be Ed Deuschle of Bay St. Louis, and Horace Thomas of New Albany. A noon meal will be served in fellowship hall. Howard Peak is pastor.

**Calvary Church, Caribou, Maine,** will celebrate its 30th anniversary Sept. 26. The church is compiling a history and listing of names and addresses of everyone who has been a part of the church. Calvary has ministered

primarily to the military personnel at Loring Air Force Base which will close in June 1994. Armand F. Jalbert is pastor. Send your name, address, the time you were there, and any other information to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 86; Caribou, ME 04736, or call (207) 493-6608.

**Cherry Park Church, Clinton,** will host a gospel singing, bake sale, and other entertainment Sept. 25. Activities will begin at 8 a.m. Proceeds from the day will go to benefit Mike King, 34, a member of Cherry Park Church who has suffered from Lou Gehrig's Disease since 1987. Hollis Alderman is pastor. For more information call 924-4973.

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Puppetry Guild will take place at the Eudora Welty Library, Jackson, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. The guild, a non-profit organization, offers its members information on workshops, performances, meetings, and festivals at local, national, and international levels. All projects of the guild are

open to anyone interested in the art of puppetry. For more information, call Hilda Faye Hill, (601) 932-2751.

**Jackson County Life Chain '93** will occur Oct. 3, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Assembly for the life chain will begin at 2 p.m. to pray and distribute signs. All participants are encouraged to bring donations of baby items or money for the local Crisis Pregnancy Center. An open house of the Crisis Pregnancy Center will be held from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at 3623-A Lee Street, Pascagoula. For more information, call Ember Lennep at 769-0225.

**Shady Grove Church, Heidelberg,** will host a fall Bible conference Sept. 19-21. Bill Burke of Illinois will preach Sunday, then lead music for the week. David Joy of Harmony will preach Sunday night at 7; Stanley Doggett of Heidelberg, Monday at 6:30 p.m.; Julius Harbison of Pachuta, Monday at 7:30; Mike Moss of Beat Four, and C.C. Burns of Enterprise, both on Tuesday night. Sharber Smith is pastor.

## Staff Changes

**New Zion Church, Crystal Springs,** has called Paul Sinquefield of Clinton as minister of youth effective Sept. 5. His previous place of service was Temple Church, Hattiesburg. He is now a student at Mississippi College.

**Jimmy Stewart** recently accepted the call from Temple Church in Hattiesburg to serve as minister of singles and outreach. He previously served at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and First Church, Gulfport.

Stewart

his education at Union University, Blue Mountain College, University of Mississippi, and New Orleans Seminary.

**Calvary Church, Columbia,** has called J. Robert Toney III as pastor effective June 22. He has served as interim pastor for eight months. He previously served as minister of music and youth at First Church, Durant, and associate

Toney

pastor and minister of music at Southside Church, Jackson. Toney is a graduate of Mississippi College and presently attends New Orleans Seminary.

**Bigbee Church, Monroe Association,** has called Tommy Whaley as pastor. He previously served for two years as associate pastor at Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus.

**James R. Chatham II** has resigned the pastorate of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, after six years of service there. He will be the new pastor at First Church, Owensboro, Ky., effective Oct. 15.

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# William Carey College sets record enrollment for all three campuses

Preliminary fall trimester enrollment for the three William Carey College campuses is currently 2,286 students — a new record — up 14% over the 1992 year total of 2,032. Hattiesburg enrollment is currently 1,185 students — another new record — with undergraduate enrollment up 13%.

Student enrollment at Carey continues to set records in nursing, religion, art, music, and the MBA program in Executive Leadership, according to Jim Edwards, college president.

"The 2+ Carey program and our financial aid packaging has helped attract a lot of new transfer students this year," said Tom Scar-

brough, vice president of Student Services at the college. "Additionally, Carey's strategic plan continues to prioritize investing in the recruitment of highly experienced well-credentialed faculty who emphasize quality teaching. New faculty have been hired in nursing, business, education, music, math, and religion, and another artist-in-residence has been hired for Carey's growing arts program on the Coast."

Gulfport enrollment exceeds 600 students for the first time in history, and enrollment in nursing and pre-nursing in New Orleans totals 486, up 25% over the fall of 1992, according to Scarbrough.

## Homecomings

**Bartahatchie (Monroe):** Sept. 19; worship, 11 a.m., and followed by a luncheon; New Horizons, Breman, Ala., will present a musical concert, 1:30 p.m.; Glen Hughes, pastor.

**Agricola (George):** Sept. 19; 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon; afternoon singing; Bruce L. Worrell Jr., pastor.

**Bigbee (Monroe):** Sept. 19; guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Tommy Whaley, pastor.

**New Prospect, Brookhaven:** Sept. 19; Sunday School, 10 a.m.;

Clifton Perkins, former interim pastor will be the speaker at 11 a.m. service; fellowship meal, noon; music program, 1:30 p.m.; John Jerry Smith, music; Gene Douglas, pastor.

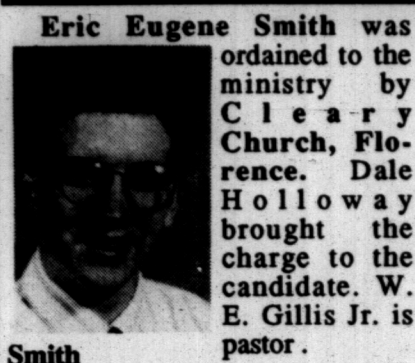
**First, Houston:** Sept. 19; starting at 9:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall at noon; singing, 1:15 p.m.; James Travis, Blue Mountain College, guest speaker; Al Gaspard, pastor.

**Union, Picayune:** Sept. 19; 8:30 and 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; 7 p.m.; Claude L. Howe Jr., Picayune, guest speaker; Terry L. Ledbetter, pastor.

Thursday, September 16, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Names in the News



Smith

**WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. (BP)** — Gary C. Huckabay has assumed the presidency of Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., after unanimous election by the board of trustees. Huckabay, 45, who took office Aug. 16 after the late-July trustee vote, has been dean of Dallas Baptist University's college of adult

and continuing education since 1991. He also taught Bible and world religions at DBU.

**Retired missionary Helen Bagby Harrison, 93, died Aug. 16 in El Paso, Texas.** She was the daughter of pioneer missionaries Anne and William Buck Bagby, who began Baptist work in Brazil in 1881. She returned to Brazil as a missionary in 1923. She wrote about the Bagby family in her 1954 Broadman Press book, *The Bagbys of Brazil*.

**Marilyn Julian** will be presented in a senior piano recital by the Mississippi College Department of Music on Sept. 21 in Aven Auditorium. She is studying under Patricia Walston, assistant professor of music.



**New Hope, Lee Association,** honored S.S. Kelley on Aug. 22 for 61 years in the ministry with a plaque, a memory book, and a money tree. Ordained in 1932 by First Church, Tupelo, Kelley organized seven churches, built 10 churches, pastored 21 churches, and served 10 years in ministry at Alpha House, which is a home for troubled young boys in Tupelo. Pictured, from left, are Kelley, Mrs. Kelley, and Lowell Johnson, pastor.

## Virginia conservatives formalize organization

**RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)** — Virginia Baptist conservatives have taken another step toward a state organization for fellowship and missions.

Meeting only eight months after forming the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, approximately 300 conservative pastors and laypersons approved a constitution and bylaws, elected officers,

established a structure of committees, and approved guidelines for receiving and spending funds for mission causes different from those of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

But leaders of the SBCV, which met Sept. 2 at a Richmond, Va., church, were quick to deny their organization is a new state convention to rival the BGAV.

"We have not formed a new state convention today," said Tommy Taylor, pastor of London Bridge Church in Virginia Beach, Va., and president of the SBCV. "That's not on the agenda. We are part of the Baptist family of Virginia, the BGAV."

## Former WMU president dies

**Elizabeth King Hannah, 17th president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, died Sept. 7.** She served from 1963-69.

Hannah was closely identified with the beginning of Camp Garaywa and its subsequent development. When a tragic fire destroyed two major buildings at the camp in 1970, she was asked to serve as chairman of the committee which would bring recommendations about rebuilding the facilities.

She served in places of WMU leadership in her church, First, Clinton, in the Hinds-Madison Association, in her district, and in the state WMU.

## Brozville Church marks 100th year

Antioch Church, Brozville, will celebrate its 100th anniversary, Sept. 19, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Mac Massey, William Riles, George Adams, C.T. Myers, Scotty May, and interim pastor John Sproles will participate in the 2 p.m. service, following a covered dish dinner at noon.

## Tri-area women's retreat set

"Touching My World... Through Love" is the theme for a fall regional retreat for women in Areas 7, 8, and 9. This event, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Unions in the three areas, will be held at Gulfshore Assembly, Nov. 5-6.

Headlining the program will be Beverly Sutton Miller, executive director, Alabama Woman's Missionary Union.

Conference cost information may be secured from Barbara Evans, 66 Sunset Rd., Wiggins, MS 39577; telephone (601) 928-5131.

## Revival Results

**Fellowship, Summit:** Aug. 6-8; Donald Pouns, evangelist; 2 professions of faith; Gary Creek, pastor.

**West Ripley, Ripley:** Aug. 22-27; Bert Harper, Tupelo, evangelist; Chris Reaves, Ripley, music; five professions of faith, one commitment to ministry; Billy Baker, pastor.

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## Uniform

### The ultimate temptation



By Michael O'Brien  
Genesis 3:1-13

Facing temptation is a reality. Satan is alive and well, and as busy as he can be as he sees his end drawing closer. We would be well advised to realize that Satan wants us to fall just as badly as he wanted Eve in the garden. One of the more common temptations that people face today is to doubt God and his Word. Remember, Jesus, who remained sinless, battled temptation with the Word. In this lesson we will look at five things dealing with the Word.

**The Word twisted (vv. 1-3).** The tempter realizes the power of the Word. He also knows that Christians are encouraged to follow the Word. "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Ps. 119:105, NIV). His confrontation with the woman was a twisted quote of what God really said. God had given instructions to the first couple: "Leave the tree in the middle of the garden alone." The tempter says, "You must not eat of any of the trees of the garden." He is so crafty, he simply wanted to engage the woman in conversation, and then spring his trap. As we look at the question posed by the archenemy of God, let's become aware of how important it is to be good students of the Word. The best way to recognize what is false is to know what is true. The more we become aware of the truths of God's Word, the easier it will be to recognize the perverted Word.

**The Word denied (vv. 4-5).** Who is the liar here, the tempter of God? The serpent told the woman, "You will not die" (v. 4). But God did say, "You will die." The tempter lied about God's Word and his character. God had shown himself to be loving, caring, giving, and full of grace and truth. Satan then said God was selfish. He convinced Eve that God did not want any competition as God — that the reason he didn't want them fooling around with this tree was because they would be like him, with eyes opened. As we study these verses, we realize that God did not lie, he can be trusted. There are times when blind trust in the Lord seems foolish, even insane. However, God can be trusted. When there seems to be no grounds for putting your faith in him, simply exercise your faith.

**The Word disobeyed (v. 6).** Eve ate the very desirable looking fruit and gave it to Adam to eat. Here we find the very first act of disobedience in the Bible. Eve saw the fruit, and it looked good. God tells us in his Word, "Taste and see, the Lord, he is good" (Ps. 34:8). Do not be deceived by Satan's pretty picture. He may appear as an angel of light, but inside he is as black as the darkness to which he will one day be condemned. Keep in mind that Jesus referred to the devil as a liar and the father of all lies. He warned that Satan has come to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). Who was hurt in this event? Every person since Adam and Eve! Sin will always affect other people. Have you ever heard the term, "a victimless crime"? That is a contradiction in terms. Without a victim, there is no crime. To say that your sin only affects you is wrong. Sin has the domino effect; sin will always harm others.

**The Word condemns (vv. 7-10).** Can you imagine the shame of Adam and Eve? The Word is unclear as to the time lapse at this point. We do know that God visited with Adam in the garden, walking with and instructing him as to what he could do (2:15-17). Adam and Eve were the first to enjoy that sweet fellowship with God. Then, "their eyes were open." Adam and Eve had gained knowledge, but lost their innocence. There was a new feeling in their being: guilt! They also experienced shame for the first time; they wanted to hide from each other, and they wanted to hide from God.

**The Word reveals (vv. 11-13).** Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent for the fall. God's question to Adam was not who gave him the fruit, but did he eat. Adam's answer was: "The woman you put here with me (was it God's fault?), she gave me some fruit from the tree (was it Eve's fault?), and I ate it." All of Adam's statements were true, but only one was an admission of his own guilt: "I ate the fruit." Eve tried the same tactic: "The serpent deceived me and I ate it." The serpent deceived and tempted her, but she ate the fruit.

1 John 1:2 says, "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin" (emphasis mine).

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

## Bible Book

### Living, walking in the truth



By Jewel P. Merritt  
2 John 4-9; 3 John 2-10

My Grandmother Pittman loved to take folks home for dinner after preaching at the Knox Church. My mother always invited visiting preachers and musicians who came to the Tylertown Church to join us for a meal. The tradition of extending hospitality is as old as Abraham. The apostle John spoke of this in his second and third letters.

**Salutation and commendation (2 John 4).** John addressed this letter to the "elect lady." Most commentators believe the elect lady was a church. The children were the believers in that church. John rejoiced that these Christians were walking in God's truth.

**The command to love one another (2 John 5-6).** John's repeated use of the word "love" indicated the value he placed on this command. The command to love was as old as God's giving of the law (Lev. 19:18) and as new as God's redeeming love as shown in Christ (1 John 4: 9-10). Years ago Elizabeth Barrett Browning asked the question, "How do I love thee?" We need to ask that question, not of our feelings for our sweetheart or mate, but we need to ask if we truly love the Lord. John said the answer was easy to determine. If we love him, we obey him. His command has always been that we walk in love.

**Warning against deceivers (2 John 7-9).** There have always been deceivers in the world. In John's day the deceivers were probably the forerunners of gnosticism, those who denied that Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. Deceivers are present today in cults and the New Age movement, to name only two. John warned his readers not to be led astray by these false teachers (v. 8). Faithful believers who keep on growing in the Lord can expect a reward. The greatest reward is the presence of our loving Lord in our lives. Although verses 10-11 are not included in the focal passage, I believe they deserve attention. We wonder how to treat cult members who come to our homes to witness or sell their literature. John urged that false teachers not be extended the hospitality of a meal or lodging. As for our present situation, we can offer a witness of our own and treat them with courtesy as we send them on their way.

**Salutation and commendation (3 John 2-4).** John's third epistle was to a dear friend, Gaius. While we cannot identify Gaius, we can be certain of his friendship with John. In verse 2 John extended wishes for Gaius' health and prosperity even as his soul was prospering. Many people have become very conscious of the importance of eating properly and exercising regularly. Some of these give little, if any, thought to their spiritual well-being. John rejoiced over reports of the spiritual health of Gaius as he walked in the truth.

**Encouragement of hospitality for servants of Christ (3 John 5-8).** Foreign missionaries are quick to extend hospitality to other missionaries and visiting volunteers. Gaius was like that. He regularly welcomed traveling preachers and teachers who faithfully proclaimed the good news. While false teachers were to be denied hospitality, John wanted all believers to extend lodging and support to faithful laborers and thereby share in their work. We can share in the work of home and foreign missionaries as we support our Cooperative Program and mission offerings.

**Condemnation of Diotrephes (3 John 9-10).** There are some who want a place of honor in their church, but not necessarily a place of service. John condemned one such man who had set himself up as a dictator in his church. Jesus said, "I am among you as One who serves" (Luke 22: 27b).

Who in your community needs the encouragement of warm, Christian hospitality? Is it college students, your church secretaries, internationals, an associational missionary? The Lord will direct you to someone who needs you as you seek to fulfill your role as a servant as you live and walk in the truth.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

## Life and Work

### Reconciliation in families



By Mark A. Rathel  
Genesis 50; 2 Samuel 18;  
Luke 15; Ephesians 4

The closest experience to heaven on earth is a loving family. The closest experience to hell on earth can be a family with disrupted relationships. This lesson studies biblical principles concerning reconciliation in families. Through reconciliation, we can experience a taste of heaven.

**You meant it for harm (Gen. 50:12-21).** One of the most moving scenes in the Old Testament is the moment when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers as the leader of Egypt (Gen. 45). Evidently, the brothers thought Joseph feigned his magnanimous attitude because of their father's feelings. In reality, the brothers were incapable of forgiveness and projected their hardheartedness upon Joseph.

Prior to Jacob's death, the question of the brothers' guilt in their treatment of Joseph had not been dealt with. The brothers confessed guilt to one another (Gen. 42:21), but they had not confessed to Joseph. Even in their last recorded encounter, the brothers sent a messenger with a purported plea from Jacob for Joseph's forgiveness (vv. 16-17). Joseph wept for two reasons. First, his brothers did not understand him. Second, he realized his brothers had carried a burden of guilt for years.

Joseph was not God (Gen. 50:20), and therefore could not seek vengeance. Joseph had a forgiving spirit. He absorbed the hurt and paid the personal cost to forgive.

**There is no reconciliation after death (2 Sam. 18:33-19:8).** Joseph forgave his brothers; David refused to forgive Absalom. David did not treat his children equally. David's son Amnon raped Tamar, his half-sister (2 Sam. 13:1-21). In response, Absalom, Tamar's brother, murdered Amnon (2 Sam. 13:22-25). David was angry at Amnon (2 Sam. 13:21), but he did nothing in response. Absalom, however, was not allowed in the king's presence for five years. Even though David longed to see Absalom (2 Sam. 13:39), David made no attempt at reconciliation. David intensely grieved the death of Absalom because he realized that it was too late for reconciliation.

**Rejoice, for my son is found (Luke 15:11-32).** Joy is the dominant theme of the three parables of Jesus recorded in Luke 15. The last parable deals with relationships: father to sons, sons to father, and sons to each other. The father's love is broad enough to include both rebellious sons. The unanswered question is whether the elder brother was reconciled to the younger brother.

The younger son treated his father with total disdain; indeed, he treated his father as if he were dead. In Jewish society, a father could grant an inheritance while he was still alive. The son receiving an inheritance, though, had a moral obligation. He could not dispose of the property so that he would have the means to care for his aged father in time of need. The younger son dissipated his means of meeting this moral obligation. He disposed of the property and wasted his money in sinful living.

The younger son cut himself off from his father. His actions were symptomatic of a deep, personal need. The son was a victim of self-will and self-deceit. Through repentance he returned to the father. The father eagerly waited for his son's return. His compassion upon his son preceded the confession of the son. The son treated his father as if he were dead; the father responded by lavishing the symbols of sonship upon the prodigal. Reconciliation was possible because the father received his son with joy.

**Family members, be kind to one another (Eph. 4:26-32).** Paul, in Ephesians 4, gave strong commands concerning fellowship among believers in the church. His words as well, offer excellent principles for family living.

Family members naturally will become angry with one another (v. 26). We are not to allow our anger to simmer overnight; it could easily degenerate into bitterness. Anger allows the devil leeway to destroy family relationships (v. 27). Family members should not speak unhealthy, unwholesome words to each other (v. 29). The language of the family should be one of encouragement. Family members should be kind to one another (v. 32). Sometimes we treat strangers with more kindness than we do our own families. Mutual forgiveness is necessary to maintain family intimacy.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

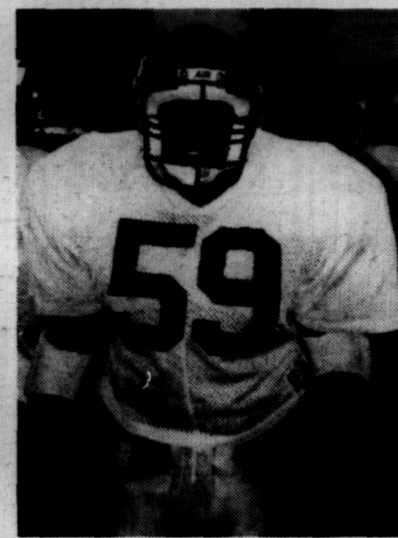
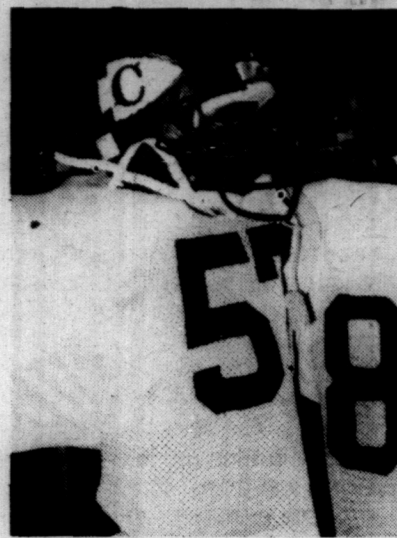
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**Jamal Hervey #57** is a senior this year and is playing linebacker for the Clinton Arrows. Also playing for the Arrows for the first time is sophomore, **Arthur Coleman #59**. Arthur is playing center. **Joseph Strahan**, a senior at Clinton High School, is a manager on the team.



**Mr. Charles Ray "Chip" Price** joined our staff September 1 as full-time Chaplain. We welcome Chip and look forward to having him in our family.



The Lord provides! Recently we ran in "The Village View" a request for furniture for our cottages. Pictured are representatives from First Baptist Church, Booneville who donated 24 new sofas to meet this need. Pictured are (standing left to right) Mr. Marshall Dickerson of Dickerson Furniture Company and Chairman of Deacons in FBC; Mr. Jimmy Patt, Maintenance BCV staff; Mr. Steve Eaton of FBC — provided transportation for sofas; Mr. Ken Robinson, Maintenance BCV staff; Rev. Ronny Robinson, Executive Director BCV Staff; (sitting left to right) Mr. Bob Catlett, Recreation BCV staff; Mr. Freddie Leonard, Director of Properties BCV staff; Rev. Bill Duncan, Pastor FBC Booneville.

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(to be continued)



# capsules

**BOCHCO'S 'NYPD BLUE' SERIES REJECTED BY ABC AFFILIATES:** NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Television producer Steven Bochco's new "R-rated" television series "NYPD Blue" is expected to push the limits for TV dramas with sex, violence, and language. But it will have to do it without the help of ABC affiliates in at least 15 markets, which have said they will not carry the program. About 30% of ABC affiliates said they would not run the pilot in its original form, and more than a dozen have said they will not run the program at all. American Family Association founder Donald E. Wildmon said "NYPD Blue" has already set a record for affiliate rejection based on content. Wildmon expects that as many as 50% of affiliates may eventually reject the program.

**TILTON FACES DIVORCE, LAWSUIT, LOSS OF MOST OF HIS TV AUDIENCE:** DALLAS, Texas (EP) — Televangelist Robert Tilton, known for programs that emphasize fundraising and target the elderly, the ill, and the poor, appears to be nearing the end of his career. Tilton lost most of his television audience after ABC's "Prime Time Live" exposed his lavish lifestyle, and showed that his ministry threw out prayer requests unread after the financial gifts had been removed from letters sent by followers. Arbitron ratings show that Tilton, who once was seen in 250,000 homes across the U.S., has lost 85% of his national audience and is now seen in only 26 markets, down from 235. Tilton has reportedly lost 75% of his 8,000-member Dallas church. According to televangelist analyst Steve Winzenburg of Grand View College in Des Moines, Tilton now spends 86% of his airtime on fundraising and promotion. Tilton has refused to release the donor records for his church as requested by the court, and could be jailed if he refuses to cooperate with the lawsuit. On Aug. 16, Tilton filed for divorce from Marte, his wife of 25 years. The divorce petition cites only "discord or conflict of personalities."

**PASTORS END HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING EMBARGO TO CUBA:** LAREDO, Texas (EP) — A three-week hunger strike ended Aug. 20 as ministers with Pastors for Peace reached an agreement with the U.S. Treasury Department. A bus containing humanitarian aid for Cuba crossed the U.S.-Mexican border Aug. 23, en route to Tampico, Mexico. It will travel to Cuba by barge. Eight pastors on board the school bus began the hunger strike July 30 when the bus was impounded by U.S. customs agents. The supplies were to be shipped to Cuba from Mexico because of a 30-year-old U.S. embargo against Communist Cuba. The Minneapolis-based pastors' group argued that the U.S. trade embargo was unfair because similar bans have not been imposed upon other nations with similar or worse human rights records than Cuba. After a 23-day hunger strike, the U.S. Treasury Department, which oversees the U.S. Customs Service, reversed its earlier position that the bus was an illegal export to Cuba requiring a special license. The department instead declared the bus humanitarian aid, and therefore legal. The bus was one of 95 vehicles carrying some 100 tons of supplies. The rest of the vehicles had already entered Mexico when the bus was impounded.

**CANADIAN BODY REVERSES POSITION ON RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING:** HULL, Ottawa (EP) — The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has announced changes to the CRTC's 10-year-old religious broadcasting policy that will make room for Christian and other single-faith stations. The move will, for the first time since 1932, allow Christian organizations to hold broadcasting licenses. The commission relaxed ownership restrictions, opened view-pay windows for all-Christian cable channels, and made a move that may scale back mandated multi-faith representation on local radio and television stations. The CRTC received over 2,600 written submissions and 56 oral presentations from individual Canadians and groups in connection with the public hearings on the issue last October in Hull and Winnipeg. The new policy changes the commission's interpretation of the Broadcasting Act, which states in part that the Canadian broadcasting system as a whole "should be varied and comprehensive and should provide reasonable, balanced opportunity for the expression of differing views."

**THOUSANDS DEAD, MILLIONS HOMELESS AFTER ASIAN FLOODS:** KATHMANDU, Nepal (EP) — While flooding in the mid-western United States captured media attention, heavy rains also swept through South Asia, killing several hundred and leaving millions homeless. Nepal, Bangladesh, and India were particularly hard hit. Torrential summer rains in Nepal swelled rivers all over the country, according to Edgar Metzler, director of United Mission to Nepal (UMN). Metzler estimates floods and landslides killed nearly 1,000 Nepalese, and nearly 800 are still missing. Nepal's government is coordinating flood relief, and has assigned UMN to assist people in Rautahat District, close to the Indian border. Here water rushed out of the mountains, destroying thousands of acres of crops, mostly rice. Mennonite Central Committee workers in Bangladesh say coping with annual floods is a way of life in the delta country on the Ganges, and other area rivers. Last month, however, relentless rain left half the country under water. In India more than 700 have died in floods this year. In the Punjab region, normally India's "breadbasket," flooding reportedly wiped out more than half the crops.

## Newest in Books

**A Pilgrimage in Prose and Poems**, by Frances Taylor Smith. A Mississippian writes of God's beauty in life. Available from Maranatha and RTS (Reformed Theological Seminary) bookstores. 57 pages.

**Confessions of a Perfect Parent**, by W. Wayne Price. The openness of Price's "confession" makes a moving personal story of struggle, courage, change, and hope. Eerdman, 157 pages.

**What God Wants to Know**, by Bruce Larson. A blueprint for a lifelong, grace-filled relationship with God... through listening to God's questions and answering them honestly. Harper, 134 pages.

**Enough is Enough**, by John F. Westfall. When the "good life" doesn't feel good enough — a baby-boomer pastor explores the true meaning of satisfaction. Zondervan, Harper-Collins, 166 pages.

**In Search of Guidance**, by Dallas Willard. Encourages us to listen for God's voice and then to respond and obey. Great encouragement in the arena of God's

direction in our life. Zondervan, Harper-Collins, 247 pages.

**Mighty to Save**, by T.V. Farris. A study in Old Testament Soteriology. 301 pages.

**The Book of Church Growth**, by Thom S. Rainer. The history, theology, and principles of church growth. 351 pages.

**Celebrating Sex in Your Marriage**, by Dan and Sandra McGee. For married couples who want to understand, accept, and celebrate their sexuality and God's intent for creating them as male and female. 151 pages.

**Christian Sex Education**, by Jimmy Hester. How to use the Christian sex education series at home or through your church. 143 pages.

**Sexuality: God's Gift**, by Ann Cannon. For adolescents, ages 14-17. A biblically-based approach for parents and church leaders. 96 pages.

**Being a Minister's Wife and Being Yourself**, by Nancy Pannell. Unrealistic expectations of everyday life, feelings of frustra-

tion, anxiety, or guilt can become wonderful opportunities! 160 pages.

**Romancing the Home**, by Ed Young. "How to have a marriage that sizzles," is the subtitle. It's about discovering the happiness God intended for you and your spouse. 223 pages.

**Reconnecting**, by Ronnie W. Floyd. How to renew and preserve the three vital elements of a powerful spiritual life. 168 pages.

**Breaking Crime's Vicious Cycle**, by Don Dennis. Dennis was sentenced to life in prison and was a man without hope... but that's just when God began to work. 222 pages.

**Drawing the Net**, by O.S. Hawkins. Thirty practical principles for leading others to Christ, publicly and personally. 143 pages.

**Opening Night**, by Laura Harris Smith. The complete guide to producing Christian drama. 176 pages.

**Help! I'm a Deacon's Wife**, compiled by Robert Sheffield. Convention Press, 80 pages.

**10 Tough Issues in Youth Ministry**, compiled by Richard Ross. Convention Press, 126 pages.

**American Mosaic — Church Planting in Ethnic America**, by Oscar I. Romero. America's ethnic groups present a new challenge for the church. Broadman, 222 pages.

**Keys to Interpreting the Bible**, by Earl P. McQuay. A practical aid for pastor or layman to rightly divide the truth. Broadman, 111 pages.

**Are You the Teacher?**, by Jean G. Sauls of Columbia. Poems capturing the humor, frustrations, and joys of working with children. University Editions, 96 pages.



### Mississippi-Illinois partnership continues

A WMU mission team traveled from Mississippi this summer to conduct Bible schools at the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis, Ill. Participants were (above, left to right): Betty Duck, Gloster; Betty Dobbs, Clinton; Carol Ginn, Liberty; and Renee Cotten, Wesson.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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HTRJ ZSYT RJ, FQQ DJ YMFY QFGTW FSI FWJ  
MJFAD QFIJS, FSI NBNQQ LNAJ DTZ WJXY.

RFYYMJB JQJAS: YBJSYD-JNLMY

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Thirty-Three.

Baptist Record

September 16, 1993

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